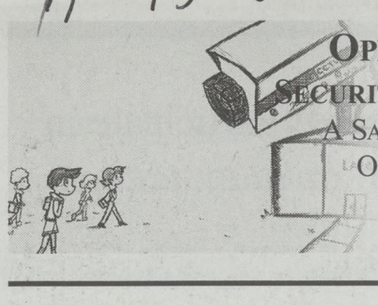
11-15-06



**OPINION PG. 2**
SECURITY CAMERAS
A SAFETY MEASURE OR AN INVASTION OF PRIVACY?

**VALLEY LIFE PG. 4**
REVIEWS AND EVENTS
"SHUT UP AND SING," JOSH GROBAN'S "AWAKE" AND THE PRESIDENT'S GALA

**SPORTS PG. 5**
BASKETBALL
MONARCHS TAKE ON NO. 7 TEAM AND WIN AT STATE TOURNEY.

**GALLERY PG. 6**
VALLEY ARCHITECTURE
CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATIONS BRING A NEW FACE TO CAMPUS.

WWW.LAVC.EDU

WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 65, ISSUE NO. 7 | NOVEMBER 15, 2006 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

## Vandals a Costly Problem for Valley

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With Valley College making serious efforts to upgrade its learning environment and improve safety on campus, the threat of vandalism continues to leave a bad mark with more than $40,000 in yearly damages.

Vandalism's price tag varies from the small cost of removing stickers throughout the campus to the significantly more expensive task of repainting over graffiti and replacing mirrors.

"We're investing all these millions of dollars into these facilities to renovate them and make Valley College look like a world-class college," said Lopez. "But it's going down the tube because we've got some people that don't respect [other] people's property at all."

Lopez said that cases of graffiti vandalism are a daily reality for Valley's custodians, with most activity occurring over the weekend. The biggest concern is the graffiti in the newly renovated restrooms, but restrooms are a target in general.

"[The vandalism] primarily occurs in the men's public restrooms," said Lopez. "[The vandals] are etching in the mirrors that cost hundreds of dollars, names get scraped into the tiles on the wall …it's really a shame."

While graffiti from markers and paint can be covered with a coat of paint, Lopez said the use of sharp objects to permanently etch mirrors and tile is the most costly and troubling issue.

"I would say that there are a lot of people that come to Valley College and have no respect for school property," said Director of College Facilities Tom Lopez. "People forget that vandalism is a crime and that the people that

see '*Vandals* page 3

**VETERANS DAY**

MORRIS DE LA ROCA /SPECIAL TO THE VALLEY STAR

**REMEMBERING THE FALLEN -** Every weekend on Santa Monica Beach, Arlington Cemetary West places crosses in the sand for the military personnel lost in Iraq. On Veterans Day, it became a place to gather to mourn the losses, and to remember those still fighting for the U.S.

## Residents Look to Limit Parking

BY ANA KACZMAREK
NEWS EDITOR

Valley College neighbors living south of Burbank Boulevard say crime and litter in their area can be traced to Valley students who park on their streets. The residents are petitioning the city for permit parking to restrict the amount of cars in the neighborhood, which would force Valley students who use Worster, Leghorn and Van Noord avenues and Killion Street to find free parking elsewhere.

All but two households have signed the petition to restrict parking during the day unless the vehicle displays a permit. The petitioners have the two thirds signatures required for consideration but still have one block left.

"The people who live there feel that Valley College does have an impact on their quality of life," said Senior Lead Officer George Flores of the Van Nuys Division. "They feel that by limiting the number of cars there, that might help as far as trying to keep the kids from parking there, and hopefully won't attract the other stuff that has been going on."

In the past six months, 10 crimes have been reported in the neighborhood. Four were theft from cars, including a car window broken by a brick. Two homes were burglarized and one car was stolen. Also, police found three stolen vehicles parked on the street as they patrolled the area.

"What we have established is that because the Valley College students are parking in the neighborhood for a extended periods of time and obviously we don't have security like you guys do on on-campus parking, it has brought more crime into the neighborhood," said Amanda, the neighborhood watch block captain for Killion Street, who didn't want her last name used in the article. "Criminals are seeing that there are cars parked for six to eight hours, unsupervised."

Amanda listed littering as the primary problem. She mentioned noise, speeding and urinating in public as other issues caused by Valley students.

"Someone was arrested on the street there for narcotic sales too," said Flores. "They were dealing to the other students on the street there." He explained that poor lighting on the streets and an empty lot on Killion attract people who smoke marijuana and drink alcohol to hang out there at night.

On Killion, the first part of the block has the most evidence of litter, with a few cans, some random Burger King trash lying around, and other refuse stuffed in bushes.

The beginning of the street has restricted parking during the day, but the rest of the neighborhood is fair game. Students can be seen going to and from class, walking the quiet suburban street that doesn't appear to be a crime magnet.

"Usually by the time we get to school there is no parking left," said Veronica Rivera, an undeclared major who parks on Killion, about why she chooses to park on the street.

English major Emily Cegielski said she has been parking in the neighborhood since fall semester began because she doesn't have to pay for parking. Both women said they didn't think trash or crime was a problem and hadn't been victims of theft.

At $20 a pass, some students simply don't want to pay for parking or risk getting one of the hundreds of tickets given out each month for parking without

see '*Parking*' page 3

## Election Brings Funds to Campus

BY ANA KACZMAREK AND KHARA HUBERMAN
STAFF WRITERS

Valley College will receive $35 million for capital improvements from the recently passed proposition 1D to build the new library and child development center buildings. The state and national elections Nov. 7 also pushed the campaigning governor to enact money-saving legislation, easing the financial burden on students.

Prop. 1Dpassed with four other bond measures and will sell $10.4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund the repair and upgrading of California public schools. The money will be split among K-12 schools, community colleges and state universities.

"I'mveryexcitedandpleasedfor our campus," said Valley President Tyree Wieder. "It means we are going to be able to complete [the library] and fund other projects."

Money from Propositions A and AA was scheduled to fund the library or the child development center. Wieder said she hopes the money from those propositions will be freed for other projects that are still up in the air.

"We are scheduled to get $24 million dollars towards the building of the library and $11 million toward the building of the child development center," Wieder said.

She added that once the measure is approved by the state legislature, it would appear on next year's budget, with construction starting on the library in 2008.

"I've seen the announcements and I get happy because before it was kind of ugly and now it's growing and the buildings are nicer," said biology major Camila Rosso.

Although not a ballot initiative, students can thank the gubernatorial race for the drop in fees from $26 per unit to $20 and a rise in the minimum wage to $7.50 an hour by Jan. 1, 2007 and then $8 by the same time in 2008.

see '*Funds*' page 3

## Paris Program a Culture Class for Students

COURTESY OF LEE SHAKER

**SCENIC ROUTE -** Valley College students have the opportunity to soak up Paris art and culture next summer.

BY IRA KIERSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

To experience an exciting summer in Paris learning French, enjoying the City of Lights, and viewing some of the world's most famous monuments, a visit to the Foreign Language Building might be the start of an adventure.

Valley College offers a summer study abroad program for students enrolled in French classes who are interested in learning about the language and culture of France first-hand.

"Spending the summer in Paris with the Accent Center was a dream come true and will always be one of my most treasured memories," said Danielle Hand, a program participant. "Not only did I study at the world famous Sorbonne and make fabulous friends from all over the world, but I was able to live with a French family in the heart of Paris who invited me into their daily life and experienced French culture to a level I never could have on my own."

Students study four hours a day, five days a week at their level of French at the Bastille District Accent Center or the Sorbonne. The Center is an independent study abroad program that works with colleges around the world, while the Sorbonne is a world-renown French public university.

"One of the best opportunities is to be able to practice what you learn the minute you walk out of the classroom," said Diana Wright, who partook in the program. "Whether shopping at the Monoprix for groceries, taking the Metro to any of the hundreds of sights to see in Paris, to finding new restaurants to try the local cuisine; each day is a new adventure."

Wright also warned, "Don't kid yourself; it will also be one of the toughest adventures of your life, but the pride you feel when you get that diploma makes it all worth it."

Assistant Professor of French June Miyasaki will accompany this year's group to Paris . "Last year we had about 25 students going abroad on this program and this year, while we haven't advertised it or accepted any deposits, we already have 10 stu-

see '*Paris*' page 3

**CAMPUS CRIME**

BY IRA KIERSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

A student was injured after being dragged 15 feet by an assailant trying to steal her purse on campus last week.

"This is the first time there has been a strong arm robbery on campus since I've been here," said Deputy Tom Lynch, of the Valley College Sheriff's Station. In the six years the sheriffs have been patrolling the campus, there have been no similar incidents.

An officer responding to the call at around 6:30 p.m. found the victim crying and visibly upset.

The woman reported she had been walking in between the Chemistry and Engineering buildings on Monday, Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. when a passing man grabbed onto her purse, which was slung over her left shoulder. She held on to the purse out of instinct while the robber continued pulling, effectively dragging her down the path. The robber succeeded in taking the purse from the woman, then ran down Burbank Boulevard toward Fulton Avenue and out of sight. The purse was a black Gucci bag and contained a credit card, $60 and miscellaneous papers.

Paramedics were summoned to attend to the woman's injuries and transported her to Sherman Oaks Hospital where she was admitted. Doctors said a toe on her right foot was bleeding and she had scrapes on her right side from being dragged. She was released later that night and retrieved her car from the Sheriff's Station.

A mass campus e-mail sent out by Vice President Tom Jacobsmeyer called the event "unusual" and urged the Valley community to keep an eye out for suspicious activity.

"It is important that we all be part of the security solution when we are on campus," Jacobsmeyer wrote. He also noted that night patrols have been increased to deter criminals.

# OPINION

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com*

**AN OPINION**

## Big Brother Focuses on Valley

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen …" is the famous beginning to George Orwell's "1984."

The classic tale of an all-seeing "big brother" government that watches over its citizens and controls their every move with a strict rule, which at one point seemed outrageous, may not be as far away as many of us would like.

At a time when a large number of Americans feel a threat to their privacy and civil rights from the Bush Administration, the Patriot Act and the National Security Agency, the thought of installing cameras to watch over our every move is an ominous one.

Valley College is taking a step toward bringing some of the book's ideas to life.

In a move to make the campus safer, officials at Valley have decided to install approximately 30 cameras all over the campus. Yes, that's right. There will be cameras outside of the buildings, in the parking lots and in the hallways. Bathrooms were spared of the camera's spotlight.

I guess putting cameras there would have been an unthinkable invasion of our privacy. We should all be grateful knowing that privacy is so well respected at Valley.

While the threat of violence, sexual assault and crime is a very real possibility for students at Valley, putting cameras everywhere isn't exactly the right solution.

Instead of focusing on improving its deficiencies, like the lack of adequate campus lighting and small security staff, it seems the college has opted for a quicker fix that doesn't really address or solve any problems.

The new cameras will be linked to Valley's Sheriff's Department patrol cars for a live video feed and they have been identified as a tool to help stop crime and give campus security more flexibility in their work by Valley's administration.

"The only thing [security officers] can do now is to be somewhere that a situation is occurring just by luck," said Vice President Tom Jacobsmeyer in an interview with the Valley Star. "[Security] will now be able to look at all these cameras in the car … which really increases the efficiency of security on campus."

To think that the simple presence of cameras alone, whether there are 30 or 100, is the answer to stopping crime is optimistically unrealistic on Valley's part.

Most of the crimes that occur at Valley involve theft of property and vandalism, and having cameras lenses pointed at a set area doesn't exactly seem like the type of thing to stop a determined vandal or thief.

"The cameras just allow one person to view more area," said Deputy Sheriff Tom Lynch in an interview with the Valley Star. "And that will deter a lot of crime."

Lynch himself acknowledged that the best action Valley could take to make the campus safer would be to bring in more security personnel. The news of the cameras imminent arrival has also been an unwelcome one for many students, who voiced concerns over their privacy and how and when they would be watched.

As long as there is a lack of sufficient manpower to keep the students safe from criminals, the number of cameras won't do much more than let us know that someone is always watching us, whether we like it or not.

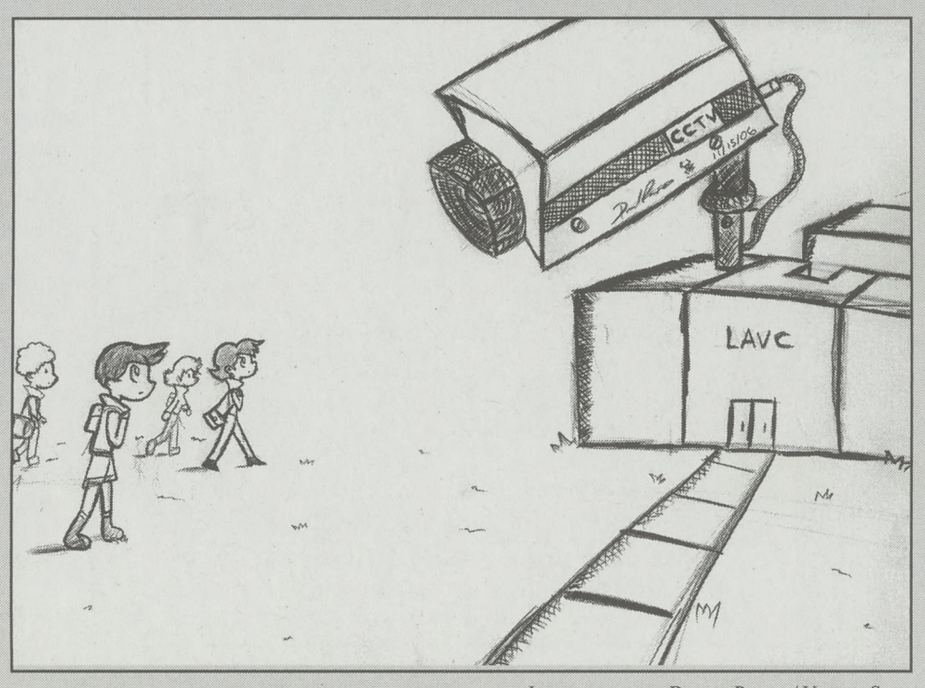
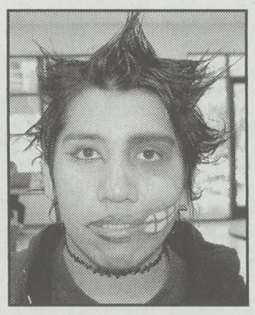



ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL PARRA / VALLEY STAR

## *Campus* View

***Are you comfortable with Valley College installing video cameras in all the buildings, parking lots and walkways?***

PHOTOS BY DANIEL KANE / TEXT BY WILL REYES



"Yes, it helps. It will be alot safer, especially in the parking lots and it should help against vandalism."

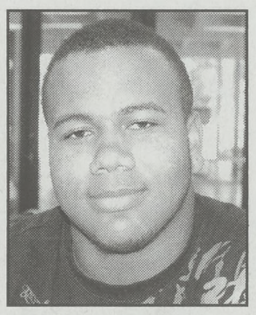
*Edward Arevalo*
*Broadcasting*

""No I'm not, it's an invasion of privacy. A lot of us don't want people watching everything we do. It's not highschool."

*Michelle Feinberg*
*Respiratory Therapy*

"No, it invades our privacy, we come here for school. All that's going to happen is the [male security guards] will stare at the girls."

*Leanne Stern*
*Political Science*



"Not really, I think it creates a lack of privacy."

*Brett Nared*
*Broadcasting*

**AN OPINION**

## Saddam's Death Will Not Give Justice

BY KRISTEN BECKER
STAFF WRITER

Saddam Hussein's sentence to death by hanging will not make Iraq more secure. Although President Bush considers the trial and sentence to be "a milestone in the Iraqi people's efforts to replace the rule of a tyrant with the rule of law," the execution of Saddam Hussein could push the sectarian conflict in Iraq into civil war. He should be punished for the reprehensible crimes that were committed under his command, but death is not the solution.

Hussein was convicted of crimes against humanity for the killing of 148 people in the village of al-Dujail. The murders were carried out in retaliation for a 1982 assassination attempt that occurred in the village against him.

His execution could very well create a new martyr for the insurgents targeting our troops in Iraq. He will be yet another very high-profile victim of the American occupation of Iraq. "If Saddam Hussein is executed while American troops are still occupying Iraq, he will be an even bigger hero for many insurgents, said Walid Zubaidy, an Iraqi political analyst. "He will be remembered as a leader who defied America until the end."

Terrorists and opposition forces in Iraq could very well use this event when it happens as a recruitment tool – it will, in their minds, justify violence. Hussein's death sentence "will incite terror operations and increase attacks in the hotspots where Saddam is deemed a legal president," Abdullah Mohammed, a Sunni Arab in Kirkuk, told Borzou Daragahi from the Los Angeles Times.

Saddam Hussein was a dictator who ruled Iraq with an iron fist. He had countless people murdered because they were, in his mind, threats to his power. When he was captured by American forces, Hussein identified himself as the president of Iraq although he had been overthrown months before. If the Iraqis are looking for revenge, what could be worse for a man so obsessed with power than to be completely powerless, to be locked in a jail cell knowing he has no possibility of ever getting out.

*If Hussein, a Sunni, is executed, this could ignite an already volatile situation and send the country spiraling into civil war with our servicemen and women caught in the middle.*

The religious strife between the Sunni and Shia sects of Islam in Iraq has gotten worse in recent months. Both sides have been committing horrible acts of violence against the other. If Hussein, a Sunni, is executed, this could ignite an already volatile situation and send the country spiraling into civil war with our servicemen and women caught in the middle.

Rather than going for the easy decision and taking revenge against the ex-dictator there would be less chance for conflict had the judge in the case used wisdom and restraint. Hussein's death could very well make an already chaotic and deadly situation in Iraq even worse.

### LETTERS

The Valley Star tries to print as many letters from its readers as possible. Letters shouldn't exceed 300 words or they may be edited for space and must include the author's name, major and connection to Valley College and contact information.

*Re: "Campus Abuzz Over Faculty Confrontation" by Ana Kaczmarek; (Oct. 25, 2006)*

## Moving Sterk to Pierce Won't Solve the Problem

In her Letter to the Editor published in your last edition, Kathleen Sullivan asked a question that I believe is extremely important. She raised the issue of whether Mr. Sterk's transfer to Pierce College posed a threat to employees at that campus. I too would like an answer. Has the LACCD adopted the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as its model for Human Resources best practices? Once it is determined that an employee acted in a threatening manner, is it now our policy to quietly transfer him to another location and hope for the best? Are the women employees at Pierce being given any warning, notice, or training on how to respond to threatening and physically intimidating behavior?

*Jeanne C. Rubin*
*Executive Assistant*
*to the President*

**AN OPINION**

## A New Hope, Responsibility for Democrats

■ As Democrats give Republicans a thumping, expectations rise for change.

BY KRISTEN BECKER
STAFF WRITER

After 12 long years, the Democrats finally have a majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The party now has the opportunity and responsibility to prove itself to the American public.

"We've got a number of challenges. The first is now we have a majority in the House and apparently in the Senate. We now have to be a part of the government," said Democratic National Committee Chair Howard Dean. "We can't simply oppose everything that the president wants to do; we've got to be part of the government."

Being anti-Bush will not be enough – Democratic politicians must be proactive and provide a definite contrast between their leadership and that of the Republicans. When the Democrats sat on the sidelines and criticized the Republicans, they avoided any responsibility for mistakes that were made. They have touted their slogan of a new direction for America and now they must deliver on their campaign promises.

Although I (and many other Democrats) would love to see President Bush impeached, that would be a very stupid decision to make politically. The Republicans have spent the last six years claiming that the Democratic Party is too extreme for America and if articles of impeachment were brought against the president, the Republicans would be proven right. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the next speaker of the House – and the first woman to have the job – understands this and has assured America that Democrats are out for revenge. "I have said and say again that impeachment is off the table," she said.

Control of the House and Senate is an opportunity as well as a challenge for the Democrats. In a press conference Nov. 8, Pelosi outlined the agenda for House Democrats: she promised to enact the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, raise the minimum wage, cut interest rates on student loans in half and make some tuition tax deductible, advance stem-cell research, repeal subsidies to oil companies and use that money to fund research of alternative energy resources.

Not only can they change the direction of legislation, but they can also change the rhetoric that accompanies political debates.

The Democratic leaders of the House and Senate and President Bush have all been talking a lot about bipartisanship since Election Day; I truly hope they mean it and it's not just empty rhetoric. "I understand my role as leader of the Democrats, but even more important than that, I very, very, very much respect that I will be the speaker of the House, not of the Democrats," Pelosi said. Maybe I'm being too idealistic, but I honestly hope that this election will wake politicians up on both sides of the aisle and civility will have a prominent place in politics.

Although I am nervous that the Democratic leadership of Congress will be a liability in 2008, I am hopeful that Pelosi and the other Democratic leaders will use the opportunity to show what a new perspective can do. I hope they have learned lessons from the Republican leadership and from their own defeats and will now rule wisely.

**For more stories, photos and letters to the editor, visit the Valley Star online at**

***www.lavalleystar.com***

## 'Paris'

*continued from page 1*

dents who told me they intend to go," said Miyasaki.

The Foreign Language Department opens registration April 20, 2007 for scheduling the July 1 to Aug. 1, 2007 trip. The program is now in its fourth year and offers college transferable credits.

The program costs $3,150, not including airfare, which is about $1,200. A $250 deposit is required with every application. The accommodations are for a double room at the Cite Universitaire. A single room and other amenities have additional costs.

## 'Funds'

*continued from page 1*

After raising college fees three times and vetoing two minimum wage increases, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger apparently felt the need to make some changes before election day, which might have helped him stay in office for another term. "The California economy is a raging, roaring success and now is the time to make sure that everyone is getting to share in this prosperity," said Schwarzenegger, referring to the reason for his change of course.

For a student taking 12 units and working 20 hours on minimum wage per week, the savings amounts to $72 in fees and an extra $15 a week in pay with the first wage increase.

"College students will be able to afford more and probably have a higher quality of life," said Christopher Rockriver, an English major, about the changes.

Other students see the legislation as a drop in the bucket. "I don't really see a difference because there are other things you have to spend money on," said Rosso. "So all the money you're saving at school you're spending on other things."

## 'Vandals'

*continued from page 1*

are doing that are criminals."

The problem is also important to the Valley Sheriff's Department, as the number of cases of vandalism from January through October has jumped to 79 this year, compared with 45 last year.

"We need the students to take an active role," said Deputy Sheriff Tom Lynch. "[If] you see somebody in the bathroom writing on a mirror…that should be reported. We need the active eyes and ears of the community."

With so much being done to improve conditions at Valley, many students are concerned that all the college's efforts may be ruined by the work of a small group of vandals.

"People who vandalize will continue once the new construction is up," said valley student Mariel Pineda. "Some people just really don't care. No matter how much people spend on making this place look better."

## 'Parking'

*continued from page 1*

a permit on campus. With 10 burglaries out of cars in the past six months in school lots, students seem to have a better chance not getting their property stolen if they park elsewhere.

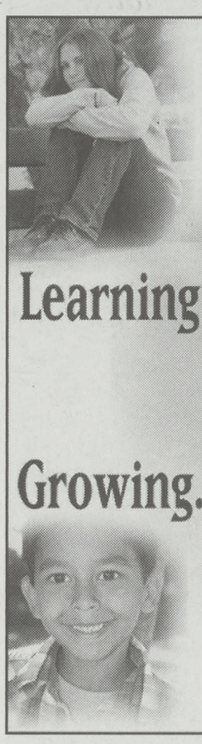
The school sells an unlimited amount of parking passes because the students come at different times of day, while construction promises to limit the number of available spots on campus. "It does [decrease parking] and we try to minimize it as best as we can," said Tom Lopez, director of college facilities. "But it's going to [affect parking] because contractors need areas … where they bring in materials that they need and their vehicles and tools…and trailers."

Lopez noted that lots B and C have plenty of parking available. "Overall, if you notice, there's a lot of parking spaces that aren't being used because they're located so far away," he said.

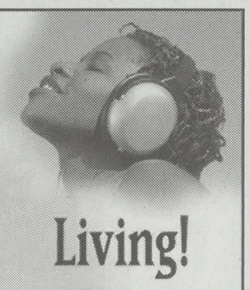
Amanda said that both the students and residents stand to gain from the permits in terms of safety, although she admits they would have less parking available.

The residents will know in approximately six months whether their permits have been approved; until then, Amanda hopes that students will be respectful of the neighborhood.

*Staff writer Khara Huberman contributed to this story.*

LIVES SHINE AT IABA!!



Learning.

Living!

Growing.

Do you work in the Human Services field or are you studying to do so? If so, IABA offers unique opportunities to be part of a team where service is rooted in ABA and strong, mutually caring relationships. For 25 years, our progressive programs and direct support have improved the lives of individuals with Autism and other developmental disabilities. Join us and make a contribution to our legacy through one of the following positions in the San Fernando Valley:

- Employment Specialist
- Community Support Companion
- Instructional Companion
- Behavior Support Companion
- Behavior Respite Companion

Other Direct Support positions available in LA, Ventura & Orange Counties. All exp. levels encouraged to apply. For immediate consideration, and to learn more about our positions, attractive benefits & compensation, send resume to:

jobs@iaba.com
Fax: 310.649.3109
Info: 310.649.0499

Visit us at: www.iaba.com
EOE

IABA.
25 Years of Helping People

Cadillac Grill @ the LAVC cafeteria

Mon-Thur 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

HOT MEALS!!
PIZZA! SANDWICHES! ICE CREAM!

*COME SEE US!*

CPK Needs You ASAP!

California Pizza Kitchen ASAP
is OPENING SOON
at Fashion Square in Sherman Oaks!

We are now interviewing:
**Front of House Team Members**
**(Cashiers /Service Assistants)**
**& Back of House Team Members**
**(Cooks / Dish Washers)**

CPK Team Members get:
flexible schedules, great pay, excellent training, & great health benefits!

Apply in person Mon-Sat, 9am-7pm
at our hiring site:
Best Western • 5525 Sepulveda
(corner of Burbank & Sepulveda)
Ph: 310-781-0553

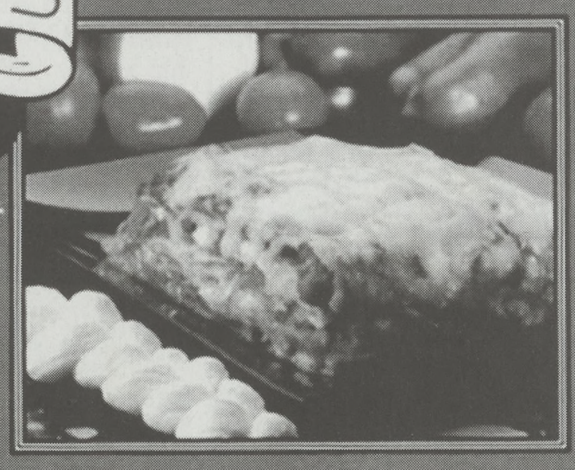
Apply online @ cpk.com. EOE

ASAP california PIZZA KITCHEN

$100 - $300 Daily
Become A Certified
BARTENDER!
40 Hour Course * Hands On Training
Job Placement * Interest-Free Payment Plans
National Bartenders School
(818) 783-0300
www.bartendingworld.com

Italian
MAZZARINO'S
Food
Established In The 1940's
ZAGAT RATED!

When It Has To Be Great Food...
It Has To Be Mazzarino's!



Serving The Best Italian Food In Sherman Oaks For 60 Years!

Dine In ~ Take Out ~ Private Party Room
Catering In Your Studio ~ Office ~ Home
Short Notice OK!

Lunch Specials Everyday 11am ~ 3pm 9.95

We Deliver!* min. 12.50 *some restrictions apply

12920 1/2 Riverside Drive ~ Sherman Oaks
Ample Parking In Rear ~ 818-788-5050
Open 7 Days Monday - Saturday 11am - 10pm ~ Sunday 11am - 9pm

$5.00 OFF
Any Two Entrees
Dine In ~ Take Out ~ Delivery
Mazzarino's Italian Food ~ 818-788-5050
Offer valid with Smart Mail coupon. One coupon per order.
Expires 12-31-06

$2.00 OFF
Any Large or Giant Pizza
Dine In ~ Take Out ~ Delivery
Mazzarino's Italian Food ~ 818-788-5050
Offer valid with Smart Mail coupon. One coupon per order.
Expires 12-31-06

GIANT 18" PIZZA SPECIAL
~ Giant Pizza - 1 Topping
~ 10 Buffalo Wings
~ 1 Order of Garlic Cheese Bread
15.50 Reg. 25.50
SAVE $10.00
Pick-up and delivery only.
Mazzarino's Italian Food ~ 818-788-5050
Offer valid with Smart Mail coupon. One coupon per order.
Expires 12-31-06

# VALLEY LIFE

## WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**

**Lady Sovereign** @ The El Rey Theatre, 5515 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036; 9 p.m. $15

**Thursday, Nov. 16**

**John Legend** @ The Wiltern LG, Hollywood; 3790 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90010; 8 p.m. $35

**Friday, Nov. 17**

**Straylight Run** @ Roxy Theatre, 9009 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90069; 7 p.m. $15

**Saturday, Nov. 18**

**Tenacious D** @ Gibson Amphitheatre, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608; 8:15 p.m. $45-50

**Sunday, Nov. 19**

**The Skatalites** @ The El Rey Theatre, 5515 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036; 8 p.m. $22

**Monday, Nov. 20**

**Gwar** @ House of Blues, Sunset Strip, 8430 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90069; 7:30 p.m. $18

**Tuesday, Nov. 21**

**The Lemonheads** @ Troubadour, 9081 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069; 8 p.m. $20

***Think Transfer!***

**Wednesday, November 15**
UC Irvine Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
College Personal Statement Workshop 1 p.m.
Humanities 102
College Application Workshop 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, November 16**
Mount St. Mary's Rep 9 - 11 a.m.
UC Berkeley Rep 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
UC Berkeley Admissions Workshop 1 - 2 p.m.

**Monday, November 20**
UCLA Rep 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 21**
UCSB Rep 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
CSU Northridge Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 22**
College Application Workshop 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 28**
UC Financial Aid Rep 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
UCSD Rep 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
CSUN Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 7p.m.
College Application Workshop 1 - 2 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 29**
College Application Workshop 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Fall 2007 UC transfer application deadline and CSU transfer application priority deadline is November 30. Apply at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions or www.csumentor.edu

All activities in the Career/Transfer Center, Admin. 126, unless otherwise indicated. For further information call (818) 947-2646.

DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

**A PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIR-** President Tyree Weider delivers a speech to the Patrons Association and guests at the President's Gala.

# Gala Raises Funds for Students

BY ANA KACZMAREK
NEWS EDITOR

Los Angeles Valley College President Tyree Weider recently held her annual President's Gala to raise money for student scholarships at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills. Hosted by the Patrons Association, the event raised approximately $100,000.

Valley, which currently enrolls more than 17,000 students, gave 211 students $106,000 total in scholarships last year. To raise the funds, the Nov. 2 event drew almost 400 attendees and featured a silent auction, followed by a live-auction during dinner, and dancing.

"It's important to me because it's an opportunity for the college to celebrate the college at our best," said Weider after the event, which auctioned off items such as Laker Luke Walton's jersey, a hockey stick autographed by the 2006/2007 LA Kings, and a pearl necklace.

"I went to LAVC and had an amazing experience," said Sean Astin, a Valley alumnus and star of "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy about his time at the college. "I want to thank the colleagues that are still in the trenches fighting for Valley College."

Local supporters of Valley attended, including Assembly member Lloyd Levine and City Council member Wendy Greuel.

"It's so important to the community here," said Levine about Valley. "Education is an equalizer and the more opportunities we can provide to people's children and to the citizens of the Valley … I'm all for it."

Michael Weinper, president of Valley's Patrons Association, also spoke about the importance of community schools and their role in educating tomorrow's leaders. "Without Valley I would not be here today," he said. "As an alumnus some 40 years later, I am comforted to know that Valley continues to enhance our community by serving our students, faculty and staff."

Weinper said that despite the generosity of those present, the Patron's Association still has to turn away hundreds of students seeking financial help.

Sponsors of the event included Kaiser Permanente, Telesis Credit Union and Cal National Bank.

# Star Snatches Spotlight at Competition

■ Newspaper picks up eighth straight General Excellence award.

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Valley Star staff won its eighth consecutive General Excellence award along with 20 other individual and team awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges regional conference held Nov. 3 and 4 at Cal State Fullerton.

General Excellence is a coveted award given to college newspapers that show an overall standard of excellence in their content and reporting. Only 12 colleges received the award.

"Winning General Excellence is a wonderful honor, and it's especially fulfilling to continue the Star's legacy by winning for our eighth consecutive semester," said last semester's managing editor LaGina Phillips, who also served as the Star's editor in chief for two semesters. "I am very proud of last semester's staff and am glad to see everyone's hard work acknowledged. It sets the bar very high for future staffs."

The two-day conference included more than 29 community colleges from all over Southern California. The competitions were divided into two categories: on-the-spot and mail-in, with the Star staff taking home a total of 21 awards from both.

Awards included editorial and news writing, photo illustrations, and best use of photos, among others. Former Valley Life editor Jesus Esquivel won in the investigative news writing and illustration competitions.

"I was at home when I got a call letting me know that I won," said Esquivel. "Spending time with my family is fun, but knowing that I was actually recognized for my work made me feel even better."

**MOVIE REVIEW**

# The Dixie Chicks Have No Plans To "Shut Up & Sing"

**"Shut Up & Sing"**
Director: Barbara Kopple and Cecilia Peck
Features: The Dixie Chicks (Natalie Maines, Martie Maguire, Emily Robison) and Simon Renshaw

★★★★★ out of 5

BY JOSHUA SPENCE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

"Shut Up & Sing," a great movie added to the rock documentary pantheon, highlights the Dixie Chicks' commercial peak and subsequent decline after lead singer Natalie Maines said she was ashamed that the President of the United States was from Texas at a London concert in 2003.

Maines, along with Martie Maguire and Emily Robison stand unapologetic for what they said. They endured a decline in record and ticket sales, became pariahs in the country music community and received death threats.

The Dixie Chicks see this backlash as a blessing in disguise. No longer having to cater to country music radio stations, they can play music that goes outside the country genre. There is plenty of material for them to write about given the backlash and kudos they've received. The the core audience that remains are the true fans they wanted in the first place. The Dixie Chicks are content with having credibility and success on their own terms.

It is not pretentious like U2's "Rattle and Hum", retrospective like Bob Dylan's "No Direction Home", or dramatic like Metallica's "Some Kind of Monster." "Shut Up & Sing" is a great study in music as business versus music as art.

The band argues with tour sponsors over spin control and eventually with their label over album direction.

COURTESY OF SONY BMG MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

Country music gave into the mob mentality of angry fans by not playing their music. However, The Dixie Chicks couldn't care less considering that their sensibility has grown to a bigger audience that is more self-aware and socially conscious than country music's narrow demographic. Feuds with country star Toby Keith over patriotism shows his ignorance more than their perfidious.

As for music as art, Maines and Co. were able to channel their hurt and angst into a beautiful, confident, antiwar and still unapologetic album "Taking the Long Way". Director Barbara Kopple takes you in close while the Dixie Chicks don't flinch.

"Shut Up & Sing" is unique because it also serves as a time capsule. Still in the patriotic haze of 9/11 (as evident by President Bush's 93 percent approval rating), Kopple shows an America where speaking your mind (Dixie Chicks, Pearl Jam, George Clooney, Bill Maher) makes you un-American.

As the president's approval rating fell and states turn from red to blue, the Dixie Chicks were not there to point the finger and say, "I told you so." This movie shows that it isn't about them being right, it is about them being themselves regardless of whether or not it is fashionable. At the expense of their financial and commercial success, they've never been happier.

Fan or not of the Dixie Chicks, "Shut Up & Sing" is a tour de force that should not be missed.

**CD REVIEW**

# Josh Groban Will Leave You "Awake"

**Josh Groban**
**"Awake"**
143/Reprise

★★★★★ out of 5

BY ELEARY S. NIXON
STAFF WRITER

Phenomenal singer/songwriter Josh Groban lives up to all expectations with his highly anticipated third album "Awake." The Los Angeles native's 13-track fusion of classical, orchestrated, and pop sounds cultivates into a single completion of peaceful melodies.

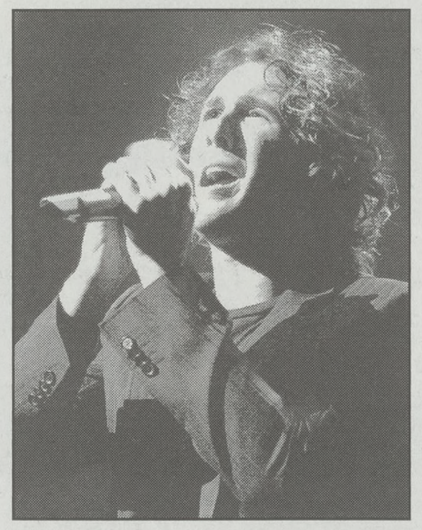
"I realized at the start of this album that I had a blank canvas," said 25-year-old Groban to Billboard magazine. "And I found my mission: This was not about being anything that I'm not -- it's about not being afraid to be everything that I am."

Fear is definitely not evident in "Awake." Groban co-wrote four tracks and lent his hand as producer to this project which consists of songs not only in English, but Spanish and Italian.

**Groban's voice has a jazzy, soul-blend leaving you completely convinced he is no phony when it comes to vocal prowess.**

Groban had a string of producers including DeVries, Guy Sigsworth, Ballard and David Foster. Yet it is the legendary collaborators which spark special attention to this album, with help from singer/songwriter Dave Matthews, pianist Herbie Hancock and the legendary South African group Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Groban stretched out of his normal adult contemporary comfort-zone and expounded upon a new eclectic sound of ballads and pop mastery.

The record 'February Song,' is an emotional enveloped ballad, taking you on a journey of loneliness with no evidence of peace at the end. 'Lullaby' gives you a live concert feel, performed chillingly a cappella featuring Ladysmith Black Mambazo and co-written with Dave Matthews. The song 'Weeping' is a cleverly written song with Groban harmonizing across the waves of beats superbly. However, it is the final up-tempo song "Machine," where Groban's voice has a jazzy, soul-blend leaving you completely convinced he is no phony when it comes to vocal prowess.



COURTESY OF JOHN MARSHALL MANTEL

"Awake" is the follow-up compilation to his 2003 quadruple-platinum selling album "Closer," which spawned the mega-hit 'You Raise Me Up.'

A projected Josh Groban tour is anticipated for 2007. But until then, "Awake" will definitely lead the legions of "Grobanites" clamoring to the album stores in support of this ingenious effort.

## LAVC SCORES

**Football**
**against College of the Canyons @ LAVC**
**(L 48-29)**
Football Record: 2-8, 1-7, 1-6

**Women's Soccer**
**against Glendale @ Glendale**
**(W 4-3)**
Women's Soccer Record: 5-13-3, 2-11-3

**Women's Basketball**
**against Victory Valley @ Victor Valley**
**(W 84-44)**
Women's Basketball Record: 2-0

**Men's Basketball**
**against Antelope @ Antelope Valley**
**(L 86-72)**
Men's Basketball Record: 3-1

## LAVC SCHEDULE

**Wednesday 11/15/06**

Women's Basketball
against Long Beach City College
@ LAVC
7 p.m.

Men's Basketball
Fullerton Tournament
TBA

**Thursday 11/16/06**

Men's Basketball
Fullerton Tournament
TBA

**Friday 11/17/06**

Men's Basketball
Fullerton Tournament
TBA

Women's Basketball
against Palomar @ LAVC
7 p.m.

**Saturday 11/18/06**

Men's Basketball
Fullerton Tournament
TBA

Men's and Women's Cross Country
State Finals
@ Fresno
10 a.m.

**Sunday 11/19/06**

Men's and Women's Cross Country
State Finals
@ Fresno
10 a.m.

**Monday 11/20/06**

No Scheduled Games

**Tuesday 11/21/06**

No S

**For more sport photos and stories, please visit www.lavalleystar.com**

BASKETBALL

# Monarch Basketball Wins Pre-Season Game 85-74

BY JOVANY S. DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

The Monarchs basketball team defended its territory against the invading Harbor College Seahawks in Valley's first home game of the pre-season, outscoring the competition 85 to 74.

The win comes as a young and ambitious Monarchs squad tries to set the tone for a successful season while discovering how to play together.

"We did well for our first game," said coach Virgil Sims. "But we don't want to win just one game, we can do better."

From the start of the match the Monarchs were all over the Seahawks' offense, using the double team effectively, forcing turnover after turnover almost every time the Seahawks touched the ball. Early in the first half, Monarchs' freshman guard Gemel Coleman, along with his teammate Vernon Alexander, stole the ball back to back wearing down the Seahawks physically and mentally.

But turnovers didn't always end in points for the Monarchs. The team struggled early on to find the basket, even going more than five minutes in the first half without a score until Coleman broke the silence with two straight layups, which put the game closer at 20-27 with four minutes left. Still, struggling to translate steals into points, the Monarchs managed to keep the game close and ended the half trailing the Seahawks 32-38.

Five minutes after the halftime break the Monarchs had the lead and never looked back. Back to back three-point shots from sophomore Gustavo Valle, who ended the game with a team high of 20 points, put the score at 42-40 with 15:30 left on the clock. The Seahawks never recovered.

The Monarchs settled down and seemed more comfortable shooting from far out when Valle made his fourth shot and freshman Alexander and Ron Holden scored three-point baskets of their own. Now the more confident and determined Monarchs team took the court.

They stepped up the pace.

"We just put pressure on them," said Coleman, who ended the night forcing six turnovers of his own. "They got tired of it".

"Man, I'm tired," said Seahawk Christopher Campbell to his visibly frustrated teammates as he walked to transition to defense. He and the rest of the Harbor team began to fall apart and even argued amongst each other over missed shots and lost possessions.

A late Seahawks rally, bringing the game to within eight points, was too little too late for the Harbor team, who took an 11-point loss back to their nest.

The Monarchs defense was efficient, forcing 20 turnovers with rebounds lead by freshmen forwards Max Hutchinson and Aaron Clarke with 9 and 7, respectively.

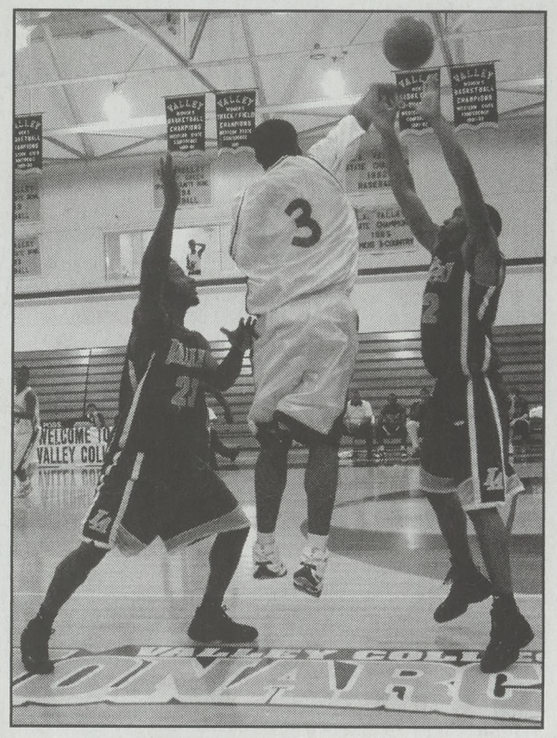
On offense, Valle's 20 points was followed by Coleman's 17 (who also forced 6 turnovers) and Alexander's 14.

With momentum on their side the Monarchs headed to the County Commerce Bank Classic this weekend at the Ventura College Athletic Event Center, a tournament hosted at Ventura College.

In their first game of the tournament they sent a clear message Friday beating the 7th ranked team of Southern California at Mount San Antonio College 80-77. San Antonio also boasts last year's state scoring leader Rishawn Norwood.

The Monarchs went on to defeat San Diego City College 87 to 85 but lost to Antelope Valley 72 to 86.

With a record of 3-1, the Monarchs head to Fullerton today to compete in the Fullerton Classic hosted by Fullerton College.



DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR
**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS -** Harbor College Seahawk Thurmond Sutton, 3, blocks Valley College Monarch Aaron Clark in the first home game of the pre-season, but the Monarchs proved victorious, winning 85-74.

SOCCER

# Valley Closes Season With Win, Beats Glendale 4-3

BY TONY SILVA
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday the Valley College Women's soccer team ended their season playing against Glendale College, beating them by the score of 4-3. First half goals by midfielders Michelle Escamilla, Nicole Cordova and defenders Jenny Portillo and Krystle Sanchez were enough to give Valley a comfortable lead of 4-0. But then Glendale would notch one during injury time in the first half and two more during the 54th minute and in the 86th minute of the second half.

"This victory in the last game of the season is great for us," said Valley defender Diana Jimenez, "In the end, it was just a matter of getting the team together and make things work and I think we accomplished that."

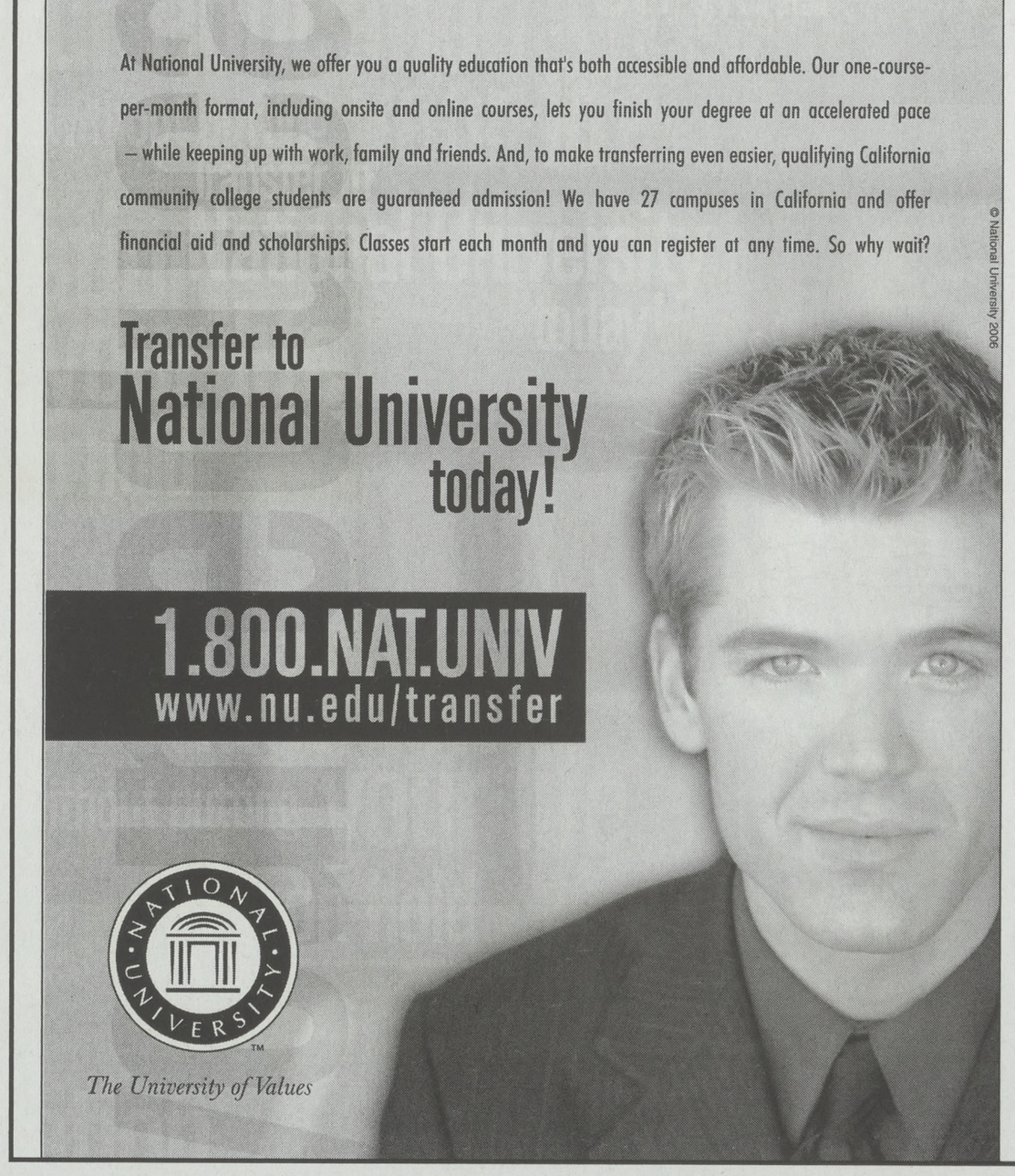
The Lady Monarchs finished the season with a 5-13-3 record and seventh place in the Western State Conference. The team couldn't have asked for a better way to end their season. A team that had struggles in the beginning but managed to improve as the season progressed.

"This is what I've been waiting to see since the beginning of the season. We played our best game today," said Coach Archilla, "The good thing is that we have a base for next year because the majority of the girls are still freshmen and some outstanding sophomores like Krystle Sanchez will be returning as well."

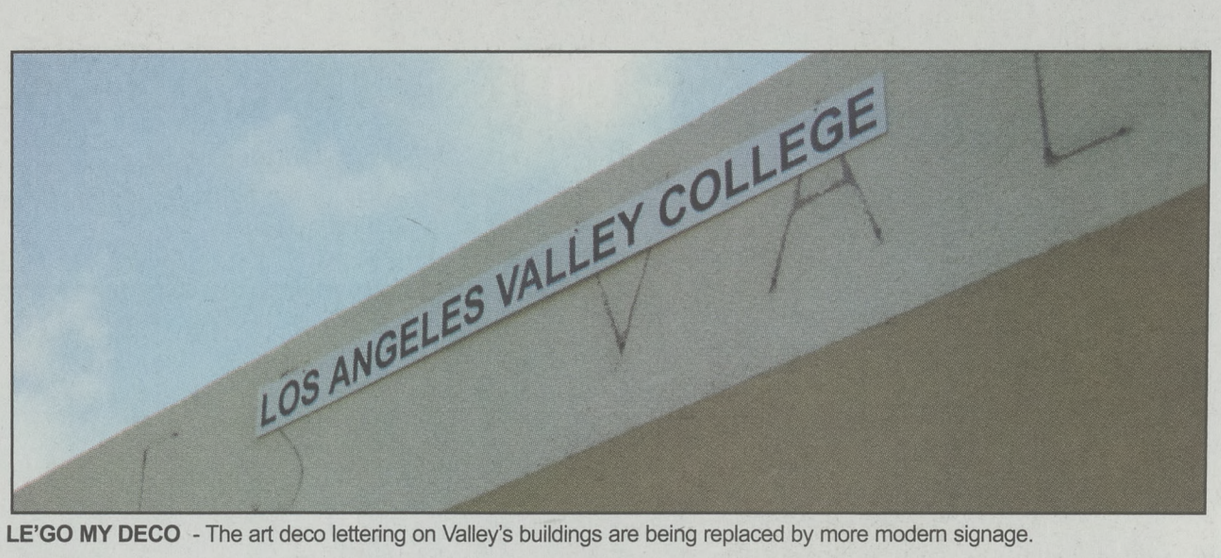
Although the team didn't reach their goal that was to make it to the playoffs, there were some great standouts that deserve to be mentioned. Goalkeeper Joanna Madayanes is ranked as one of the best goalkeepers around and attacking-midfielder Michelle Escamilla, who scored 14 goals this season and is nominated for the MVP award for the Western State Conference.

"Michelle is just an awesome player, I've never coached or seen a girl as skillful in the game as her before," said Coach Archila, "I'm sure she'll win the MVP award for the season because their is no player better than her in the conference right now."

teaching tip • 9
Superheroes don't always wear capes.
If you have not yet completed your bachelor's degree and are at least 22 years of age with 60 college units: APU can help you earn your degree one night a week for 19 months, and become a teacher through our human development (HDEV) program. APU offers an innovative, alternative degree completion program at seven Southern California locations, designed to provide subject-matter preparation for prospective elementary school and K-12 special education teachers. APU also offers other adult degree completion programs in organizational leadership, nursing, computer information/management information systems, and Christian leadership.
Once your human development bachelor's degree is complete, you can move seamlessly into APU's combined teacher credentialing and master's programs at one of our seven Southern California locations.
Call now! New cohorts are forming year round.
call (626) 815-5301
click www.apu.edu/caps
email aps@apu.edu
AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
901 E. Alosta Ave.
Azusa, CA, 91702
K-12, bachelor's to doctorate, we know teaching.


National University®
Continue your education without putting your life on hold
At National University, we offer you a quality education that's both accessible and affordable. Our one-course-per-month format, including onsite and online courses, lets you finish your degree at an accelerated pace – while keeping up with work, family and friends. And, to make transferring even easier, qualifying California community college students are guaranteed admission! We have 27 campuses in California and offer financial aid and scholarships. Classes start each month and you can register at any time. So why wait?
Transfer to National University today!
1.800.NAT.UNIV
www.nu.edu/transfer
© National University 2006
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
The University of Values

# GALLERY




**LE'GO MY DECO** - The art deco lettering on Valley's buildings are being replaced by more modern signage.

**RISING HIGH**- The $46-million, 98,000-square-foot Allied Health and Science building is being constructed where many of the campus' old bungalows once were.

**TAX DOLLARS AT WORK** - The newly remodeled courtyard between Monarch Hall and the book store is decorated with bamboo trees and awnings and provides shade and gives students a comfortable place to study.

## CASH FLOW

Photos and Text by Daniel Kane

Propositions A, AA and the newly passed AAA (1D) have given Valley College the opportunity for re-vitalization.

Out of the $10.4 billion AAA that has been alloted to California schools, Valley is receiving $35 million. A new library and child care center are in the works.

**FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH** - The courtyard outside the Art Building complements the art gallery in which it is outside of.

**OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW** - On the left is an old Plant Facilities bungalow, and on the right is the new Maintenance and Operations Building, which was one of the first structures to be erected with propostion A and AA funding.